

(iv) requiring States to permit voters to update their name and gender on their voter registration and vote on the same day of Federal elections; and

(v) making explicit that existing Federal statutes prohibiting sex discrimination in jury service also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sex characteristics;

(E) strengthening the safety of transgender and nonbinary people by—

(i) investing in community services to prevent intimate partner, family, and community violence against transgender and nonbinary people and expand services for transgender and nonbinary survivors;

(ii) investing in mental health services and suicide prevention programs designed for transgender and nonbinary people;

(iii) banning fraudulent and harmful so-called “conversion therapy” practices;

(iv) ensuring robust regulations and procedures that affirm that claims for immigration relief or asylum based on persecution related to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics are protected grounds in the context of asylum adjudications; and

(v) exploring policies and practices that would improve the safety of transgender and nonbinary individuals incarcerated in jails, prisons, and immigration detention facilities, and ensure that those populations of transgender and nonbinary individuals have access to gender-affirming care, appropriate services, and commissary items; and

(F) actively enforcing the civil rights of transgender and nonbinary people by all government agencies including by—

(i) requiring the Attorney General to designate a liaison within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice whose job is dedicated to advising on and overseeing enforcement of the civil rights of transgender and nonbinary people; and

(ii) appropriating the funds necessary to fully staff and support the enforcement of these rights across agencies;

(2) the actions listed in this resolution are only the first steps toward transgender equality;

(3) to carry out the goals in this resolution, Federal agencies must collect gender identity and sex characteristics information on a voluntary, confidential basis solely for equity and public health purposes in key Federal surveys;

(4) the Federal Government must make an ongoing commitment to the rights of transgender and nonbinary people; and

(5) policies concerning transgender rights must be led and informed by transgender communities, in particular Black and Indigenous women who face heightened risk of violence, poverty, discrimination, and other harm due to their intersecting identities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 145—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA, WHO WAS UNJUSTLY DETAINED ON APRIL 11, 2022

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 145

Whereas Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza (referred to in this preamble as “Mr. Kara-Murza”) has tirelessly worked for decades to advance the cause of freedom, democ-

racy, and human rights for the people of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in retaliation for his advocacy, two attempts have been made on Mr. Kara-Murza's life, as—

(1) on May 26, 2015, Mr. Kara-Murza fell ill with symptoms indicative of poisoning and was hospitalized; and

(2) on February 2, 2017, he fell ill with similar symptoms and was placed in a medically induced coma;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, five police officers arrested Mr. Kara-Murza in front of his home and denied his right to an attorney, and the next day Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 15 days in prison for disobeying a police order;

Whereas, on April 22, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza with violations under the law signed on March 5, 2022, for his fact-based statements condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza was then placed into pretrial detention and ordered to be held until at least June 12, 2022;

Whereas, if convicted of those charges, Mr. Kara-Murza faces detention in a penitentiary system that human rights nongovernmental organizations have criticized for widespread torture, ill-treatment, and suspicious deaths of prisoners;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his alleged engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations targeted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, on October 6, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza with high treason on the grounds that he cooperated with a North Atlantic Treaty Organization member nation, which was corroborated by the public speeches he delivered in the United States, Portugal, and Finland;

Whereas, on March 3, 2023, in response to bipartisan requests from Congress, the

United States Government imposed sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) on three Russian individuals, Elena Anatolievna Lenskaya, Andrei Andreevich Zadachin, and Danila Yurievich Mikheev, for their involvement in the unjust detention of Mr. Kara-Murza; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza's attorney reported that his client's health deteriorated to the point that he was unfit to attend his hearing on March 16, 2023, as Mr. Kara-Murza was being treated for polyneuropathy, a condition that he sustained from poison attacks on May 26, 2015, and February 2, 2017: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the unjust detention and indicting of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, who has courageously stood up to oppression in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses solidarity with Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals in the Russian Federation imprisoned for exercising their fundamental freedoms of speech, assembly, and belief;

(3) urges the United States Government and other allied governments to work to secure the immediate release of Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine; and

(4) calls on the President to increase support provided by the United States Government for those advocating for democracy and independent media in the Russian Federation, which Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza has worked to advance.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 146—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA “JERI” BUSTAMANTE ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 146

Whereas Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as “Jeri Bustamante”) lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2023, marks 5 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically

cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as “Jeri Bustamante”);

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 147—DESIGNATING APRIL 2023 AS “PRESERVING AND PROTECTING LOCAL NEWS MONTH” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 147

Whereas the United States was founded on the principle of freedom of the press enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which declares that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press . . .”;

Whereas an informed citizenry depends on accurate and unbiased news reporting to inform the judgment of the people;

Whereas a robust, diverse, and sustainable local news presence leads to civic engagement and the buttressing of democratic norms and practices;

Whereas the absence of local news outlets and investigative reporting allows local government corruption and corporate malfeasance to go unchecked;

Whereas local journalists help combat disinformation by using their community knowledge and connections to debunk fraudulent or misleading content;

Whereas local cable franchises routinely provide for public educational and government access channels on their systems, and those channels—

(1) offer vital local civic programming that informs communities;

(2) provide news and information not often available on other local broadcast channels or cable;

(3) supplement local journalism; and

(4) at times, are the only source for local news;

Whereas the people of the United States trust local news sources by a 2-to-1 margin; Whereas, according to recent research—

(1) the United States has lost more than 2,500 local print outlets since 2005, which accounts for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all local print outlets, and is on track to lose  $\frac{1}{3}$  by 2025;

(2) an average of more than 2 local print outlets are being shuttered every week in the United States;

(3) more than 200 of the 3,143 counties and county equivalents in the United States have no local newspaper at all, creating a news shortage for the 4,000,000 residents of those areas;

(4) of the remaining counties in the United States, more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  have only 1 newspaper

to cover populations ranging from fewer than 1,000 to more than 1,000,000 residents and  $\frac{2}{3}$  have no daily newspaper, with fewer than 100 of these counties having a digital substitute;

(5) more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all newspapers in the United States have changed owners during the past decade, and, in 2020, the 25 largest newspaper ownership companies owned  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all daily newspapers, including 70 percent of newspapers that still circulate daily;

(6) of the surviving 6,700 newspapers in the United States, not fewer than 1,000 qualify as “ghost newspapers”, or newspapers with reporting and photography staffs that are so significantly reduced that they can no longer provide much of the breaking news or public service journalism that once informed readers about vital issues in their communities; and

(7) rural counties are among the counties most deeply impacted by the loss of local reporting, as more than 500 of the 2,500 newspapers that have closed or merged since 2005 are in rural counties;

Whereas, while overall employment in newspaper, television, radio, and digital newsrooms dropped by roughly 26 percent, or 30,000 jobs, between 2008 and 2020, the plunge in newspaper newsrooms alone was much worse at 57 percent, or 40,000 jobs, during that same time period;

Whereas the number of news employees in the radio broadcasting industry dropped by 26 percent between 2008 and 2020;

Whereas digital native publications have laid off hundreds of journalists, and many of those publications have shuttered during the last year;

Whereas beat reporting, meaning the day-to-day coverage of a particular field that allows a journalist to develop expertise and cultivate sources, has ceased to be a viable career for would-be journalists due to the decimation of newsroom budgets;

Whereas requests submitted under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as “Freedom of Information Act requests”), by local newspapers to local, State, and Federal agencies fell by nearly 50 percent between 2005 and 2010, demonstrating a significant drop in the extent to which local reporters request government records;

Whereas newspapers alone lost more than \$39,800,000,000 in advertising revenue between 2005 and 2020;

Whereas the sponsorship revenue of all-news radio stations dropped by 25 percent between 2019 and 2021;

Whereas there remains a significant gender disparity in newsroom employment, with women comprising approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of staff who are 30 years of age or older;

Whereas women who are local television news anchors and reporters, especially women of color, are often subject to harassment and stalking;

Whereas, across the United States, there are 195 newspapers published by and for Black readers, and, in recent years, many of those newspapers have seen—

(1) significant losses in advertising revenue as small businesses in their communities were forced to close; and

(2) declines in circulation due to the closures of businesses in their communities;

Whereas the number of Black journalists working at daily newspapers dropped by 40 percent between 1997 and 2014, more than for any other demographic group;

Whereas the number of print media sources published by and for American Indian readers has shrunk dramatically in recent years, from 700 media outlets in 1998 to only 200 in 2018;

Whereas Tribally-owned news outlets are often dependent on Tribal governments for funding, but most of those outlets lack the

policy structure necessary to fully protect journalistic independence;

Whereas a 2018 survey by the Native American Journalists Association found that 83 percent of respondents believed that Native press coverage of Tribal government affairs was sometimes, frequently, or always censored;

Whereas there are more than 550 Latino news media outlets in the United States, and those news media outlets rely primarily on a declining advertising revenue base;

Whereas the lack of local news impacts communities that speak languages other than English, which are often excluded from national media coverage;

Whereas more than 100 local newsrooms have closed during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic took a substantial economic toll on the local news industry, contributing to budget cuts, staff layoffs, and scores of newsroom closures, from which the industry has yet to fully recover;

Whereas PEN America proposed “a major reimagining of the local news space” in its 2019 call-to-action report, “Losing the News: The Decimation of Local Journalism and the Search for Solutions”, and called on society and the Federal Government to urgently address the alarming demise of local journalism; and

Whereas, half a century ago, Congress perceived that the commercial television industry would not independently provide the educational and public interest broadcasting that was appropriate and necessary for the country, and, informed by an independent report prepared by the Carnegie Commission on Educational Television, created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has since ensured that radio and television include public interest educational and reporting programs using annually appropriated funds: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2023 as “Preserving and Protecting Local News Month”;

(2) affirms that local news serves an essential function in the democracy of the United States;

(3) recognizes local news as a public good; and

(4) acknowledges the valuable contributions of local journalism towards the maintenance of healthy and vibrant communities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 148—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HIRONO)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 148

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women’s History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas an estimated 4,718,255 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women live in the United States;